

(Rupees in lakhs)

Year	Earnings from platform tickets	Total passenger earnings	Percentage
2003-04	3849	1329833	0.29
2004-05	4167	1411254	0.30
2005-06	6239	1512600	0.41
2006-07	1246	421827	0.30

Selling railway tickets through petrol pumps

2705. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sell railway tickets from the petrol pumps;

(b) whether any memorandum of understanding has been signed between his Ministry and petroleum companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has approached Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited to sell railway tickets through internet (e-tickets) from their petrol pumps/retail stores. This proposal is at preliminary stage of discussion.

Bookstall policy

2706. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bookstall policy as laid down in Board's letter No. 2000/TGIII/464/18 Policy, dated 11th June, 2004 is being followed on in Indian Railways;

(b) if so, what are the detailed reasons for not renewing all the contracts of bookstalls held by a number of unemployed graduate categories;

(c) whether the license fee @ 5 per cent and 2.5 per cent as indicated in para 5.2.1(b), 5.2.1(c) and para 5.2.3 of the Board's letter No. 2000/TGIII/464/18/Policy, dated 11th June, 2004 is being recovered from the bookstalls held by the unemployed graduate categories;

(d) if so, whether all the relevant factors i.e. the viability of the contract etc. have been taken into consideration before the issue of letter No. 2000/TGIII/464/18, dated 23rd July, 2006; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A comprehensive bookstall policy was issued in October, 2004, which was quashed by the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad. The judgement of the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad has been challenged before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the matter is *subjudice*. As a consequence, *status quo* is being maintained and no renewal to book stall licencees is being granted.

(c) to (e) In 2006, the licence fee of bookstalls on Indian Railways was rationalised in order to bring it at par with other catering/vending licences at station premises/platforms and also to increase the earnings from bookstalls/trolleys. As per these instructions, the licence fee for different categories of bookstalls, except bookstalls allotted to philanthropic and social organizations, has been enhanced to 12% of annual sales turnover subject to category wise prescribed minimum licence fee. The above enhancement has been done without prejudice to the outcome of the Court cases. Zonal Railways have accordingly been advised to realise the revised licence fee and Railways are following these instructions.

Development of infrastructure to increase passenger facilities

†2707. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are less interested in the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.